

BARRE DAILY TIMES

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The dove of peace couldn't find a perch anywhere.

The editor of Viereck's New World (erstwhile Fatherland) has not yet received the iron cross, but doubtless is expecting it by any submarine.

Those steel nets spread across various harbors to keep out the enemy may be used next summer to protect various pleasure resorts from the sharks.

The steady pressure being exerted by the British on the western front betokens something strenuous just ahead for the Germans. The 1917 spring drive will make the 1916 effort look like a piker.

The snowstorm which the weather bureau has been predicting on several occasions lately still remains in the snowbanks of the sky. Perhaps a kind nature realizes we have enough snow already without further burdening us.

It was more than two weeks ago that the United States broke off relations with Germany, and yet there is no war. The longer we remain in this odd position, the more we develop the hope that it will not be necessary to declare war.

Connecticut is showing the right kind of preparedness by taking a census of all males over 16 years of age, together with facts about each person, in order to be ready for war. Connecticut thereby leads the way for the other states of the union.

Even though it should cost the United States government \$110,000 to repair the Kronprinzessin Cecilie in order to make her seaworthy, the expenditure would be well worth while if it comes to war with Germany, for the great vessel is worth many times that amount.

Unless the situation in Washington changes pretty soon, the head-writers on the big newspapers will be hard put to it for variety of expression about the same piece of news. Newspapers which use huge block type for their front page attraction to catch the eye of prospective purchasers are already beginning to stutter for lack of new words.

The prospective enlistment of "society women" for the purpose of driving motor ambulances in case of war between the United States and Germany is one of the sidelights to show us how little we really know about this game of war. To some minds war now means a society dress, or something along that order in which people may perform without great damage to themselves.

Arrested for sending out a false "S. O. S." signal, a Brooklyn youth ought to be given a good stiff punishment as an example to others who may try to play the same miserable game of deceiving those who would be likely to respond to a call for assistance at sea. It is the cheapest kind of an individual who will do that, about like the person who rings in a false fire alarm.

Barre has occasion once again to thank its good friend in Washington, Vt. Mr. Cale's new gift to the City Hospital, announced to-day, makes a total of \$45,000 which he has given to that institution alone, to say nothing of the munificence which he has bestowed on Goddard seminary. The permanency of both those institutions will be largely traceable to his liberality.

The 133 members of the Vermont House who stayed on the job Saturday felt perhaps that they wanted to give the state some service for the pay which they received on that day. As for the others—well, it is certain that they were paid for doing nothing. Some day we may get a time clock arrangement for legislators to punch just as they have in large manufacturing establishments. The workmen have to show up and punch the time clock when they begin and when they quit work, or there will be no pay for them that day.

The calm assurance with which Capt. Polack of the steamship Kronprinzessin Cecilie testified about his orders to disable the great ship interned in Boston harbor when it became certain that a break was imminent reveals that the German plan of preparedness for the war was not at all confined to the home territory of the imperial government; the seamen on German ships even were versed as to what to do in case of emergency. Apparently the German mind is trained in war first of all and then the other attributes are added to it. But war is the first consideration.

The rising cost of commodities, together with the curtailing of shipments from several causes, should serve as an incentive to Vermont people to produce more, to bring greater areas of land into cultivation. The same thing applies to the maple sugar crop during the 1917 season about to begin. The farmers can help to beat the high cost of living by producing a bumper crop of maple sugar, which they may use for their own household as substitute for white sugar or

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sell to the market. In either event they can contribute quite a bit to the necessities of life and can command a good price for the first quality product. There are thousands upon thousands of maple trees in Vermont which are not doing service in this way. They should be tapped the coming spring in order to realize fully on our natural resources.

The raising of the salary of the state fish and game commissioner from \$1,500 to \$2,000 places the stipend on a plane more nearly in accord with the requirements of the position and still not above what the state can afford to pay. It should be possible to get a competent man for the position at the new salary figure, albeit the new appointee would not be so well versed in Vermont conditions at the outset as John W. Titcomb is. A man of adaptability could, however, work into the position and rise to the full requirements of the position. The situation is not so gloomy as it has been pictured in some sources.

The official representations made by the Turkish government of friendliness toward the United States, taken in conjunction with the apparent desire on the part of Austria in recent days not to arouse the anger of the Washington government, lead to the conclusion that the central powers are not in thorough accord as to the desirability of driving the United States from the position of nominal neutrality to that of open declaration of war against the central powers. Germany is as yet wholly alone in her position although her three allies may be expected to lean toward her because of their utter dependence upon Germany at this time. Their more friendly attitude toward the United States may be taken to mean that they are not war-mad as the kaiser is.

THE MASSACHUSETTS EXPERIENCE

If Vermont needed more evidence to solidify public sentiment in favor of legislation to require the placing of lights on horse-drawn vehicles at night, then the experience of a neighboring state with such a law should be of some weight. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, speaking of Vermont's lack of such a law and of the working out of a law of that nature in Massachusetts, says:

It appears that Vermont does not yet require that horse-drawn vehicles carry lights, and the legislature is called upon to remedy the deficiency. In more populous states no farmer or other citizen thinks of driving horses at night without a light. Safety against careless motorists is not thereby insured, but the minds of drivers are made a bit easier. It is a nuisance to keep the old lantern in order for such use, but it pays, and Green mountain law ought to recognize the fact.

Moreover, what is a law for some kinds of horse-drawn vehicles is also good for all kinds. There ought to be no discrimination in Vermont between the kinds of vehicles required to carry lights.

A stone team is just as much of a menace on a dark road on a dark night as a carriage; and the public ought to be protected from it. The law is intended to remove danger from all users of the highways, whether they be occupants of wagons or automobiles; and, therefore, it will fall short of the desired result if any horse-drawn vehicles are exempted from the requirements.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Sleigh Ride.

In the Vermont and New Hampshire papers, we see an occasional local note about a sleighing party to this place or that, in which a pleasant time was had by all present. From these notes it appears that in northern New England the neighborhood sleigh ride still exists as an institution. In Massachusetts it has for the most part been killed by the automobile. The motorist, as everybody knows, is not to be discouraged. In this latitude, by any amount of snow that we have, he possesses the road all winter. And as the enjoyment of the old-fashioned sleigh ride, such as we all once knew right here in the suburbs of Boston and even in the streets of the city itself, is incompatible with the possession of the road by motor vehicles, the institution seems to have gone out of fashion—here. But where there is from four to six feet of snow on the ground on the level, the difficulties of motor travel weigh its enjoyments, and the traverse and the pung, the old high-backed sleigh and the natty "cutler" have an opportunity still to flourish and to delight.

The old-fashioned sleigh ride was always about the same thing. A big sleigh body, or sometimes a wagon-body on runners; hay or straw spread deep on the bottom of it; then an abundance of fur robes—"buffaloes," if your memory goes back to those; people, boys and girls, men and women, sitting in the sleigh with their backs to both sides of the sleigh body; driver on the seat in front, with the chaperon, in the unusual case where there is a chaperon, sitting by his side—her eyes straight ahead, so that she sees nothing behind her; four horses, if possible, but two in any case, and each horse hung about with a string of bells, ringing out on the sharp night air, but sometimes entirely drowned by the songs and laughter of the party in the sleigh—that was the invariable organization of the old-fashioned sleigh ride. Its destination was generally an inn, a dozen miles or more away, where there was a hilari-

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JINGLES AND JESTS

Good Advice—But—

One of the fair passengers of a yacht-party noticed that the captain was anxious about a mishap to some of the machinery of the craft.
 "What's the trouble, captain?" she inquired.
 "The fact is, madam," was the response, "our rudder's broken."
 "Oh, dear, don't worry about that," replied the lady. "As it's under the water nearly all the time no one will notice that it's gone."—Ladies Home Journal.

Why He Could Not Leave.

At a large evening party one of the guests stood in a corner yawning.
 "Are you very much bored, sir?" asked a bystander.
 "Yes, dreadfully," was the answer.
 "And you?"
 "Oh, I'm bored to death, too."
 "How would it do to clear out together?"
 "I am sorry I can't. I am the host."—Ladies Home Journal.

On His Birthday.

"What are you going to give your 'steady' on his birthday, Mabel?"
 "If he doesn't say anything by that time, I'll give him away."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Friend—"What is your baby going to be when he grows up?"
 Financier—"A blackmailer, I'm afraid."
 Friend—"Impossible! What makes you think so?"
 Financier—"We have to give him something every little while to keep him quiet."—Irish World.

How About a Good Back View?

"Auntie Liz had a hard time having her picture taken to-day," said her nephew, who had just opened a photographic studio and had very courteously asked his aunt to come and pose for a new picture.
 "Why, what was the trouble?" asked his brother.
 "Well, you see, when I told her to look pleasant she didn't look natural, and when I told her to look natural she didn't look pleasant."—Ladies Home Journal.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conduct of Municipal Affairs Criticized.

Editor, Times—As a voter of the city of Barre and having had some knowledge of the working of city affairs, it becomes almost a duty to myself and to the public to expose some of the doings of our present city government.

Taking the water department for an example, hundreds of dollars might have been saved if the work of that department had been performed in a judicious manner. A large amount of the work has been done under a contract system by which the contractor has received 10 per cent of the cost and the work accomplished under two high-price bosses. Pipes have been bought that were not suitable for the job and exchanged because they were not strong enough to hold the pressure. This was all done at the expense of the city.

There is a job going on now at the Bolster reservoir where the money expended under good management would be a saving to the city.

What are we to say about our streets? The condition of them is a disgrace to ourselves and the community at large. Washington street and South Main street remind us when we travel over them of a thoroughfare paved with cobble stone and representing the rough and rugged path. Next to the Spaulding school there has been a hole in the walk for two years which has escaped the notice of our street superintendent. Snow has piled up on North Main street so that our merchants will receive the benefit of the high water when it comes.

Some of the surface sewers have not been cleaned out for two years. Our back roads are in bad condition for want of repair. A job is being done on Branch street under the supervision of two high-price bosses and a steam derrick which no set of men would do under the present weather conditions if they were working for the interest of the city. In 1913 the paving job on North Main street was done under a \$2.30 tax rate which paid the bill without bonding. Besides this a large amount of surface sewers, permanent walks, and also our streets were kept in the best condition in the history of the city. You can look at the records and see who were the officials at that time.

The present city government has asked the voters to bond for \$35,000 to pave South Main street on recommendation of a \$2.60 tax rate for the present year. There is some difference between a \$2.30 tax under a smaller grand list and a paving job paid for on North Main street and a \$2.60 tax and a bond issue of \$35,000. The difference between the two jobs is about the same.

There are other things that are being done that every voter does not have the knowledge of and that is the reducing of the hydrant rentals so that the water department may not have its just reward. No other reason could be considered for this but that the man having spring water may pay less for his fire protection

and shift the burden onto the small consumer under a higher rental.

There is also another thing done to fool the people. That is the placing of a 20 per cent sinking fund tax into the sinking fund instead of placing the 15 per cent, the amount on your tax bill when presented to you. The question here is, if the city council can place 20 per cent, why can't they place a much larger sum so that the people, through the working of the city council, may enjoy a much larger tax rate?

The question for the voters at this time is, How long are we going to stand for this kind of work? Should we not be careful and elect men of good judgment who have the interest of the city at heart, so that we may reap the reward of a larger and better city through the working of the city council?

Veritas.

Epitaph of a Cynic.

John Goodman of Sulton, Surrey county, England, was a cynic. His own will convicts him of so being. He directed in this document that no woman be allowed in his funeral cortege. And on his tombstone he bade that the following verse be carved:

Farwell, vain earth, I've had enough of thee,
 And now am careless what thou say'st of me.
 Thy smiles I care not, nor thy frowns I fear.
 My care is past, my head lies quiet here.
 What faults you see in me take care to shun
 And look at home, enough is to be done.

Wild Bees.

Wild bees gather the nectar most frequently in the buckwheat. They also will attack blossoms that the tame bees ignore. The bee from the woods doesn't seem to care for propagated flowers, nor will it enter any hive that has been placed for it, no matter how enticing the food there. It is far more vicious than its cultured brothers.

Limiting Liability.

A daily paper in one of our large cities contained the following unique notice:
 After this date I will not be responsible for any bills except those contracted by any other than myself. John F. M.—Case and Comment.

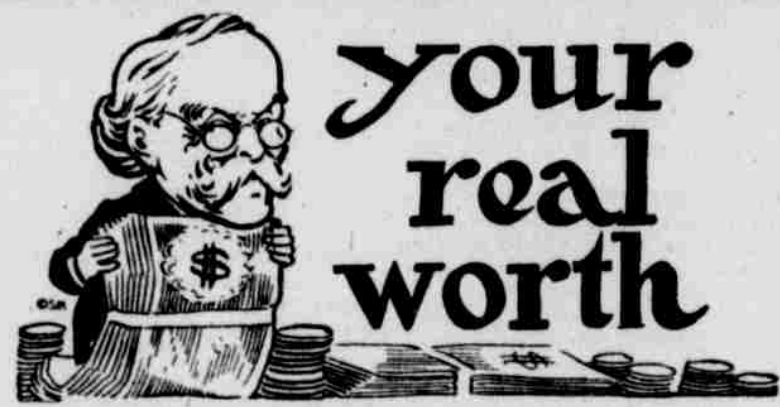
A Method of Division.

L., who was full of pranks, was taken ill. "We must be careful," said his doctor. "I will send you a nurse of not less than fifty years of age."
 "Rather," replied L., "send me two each twenty-five years old."—Gaieties de la Medecine.

Ambitious.

"Are your men ambitious?"
 "Oh, very. Every man around the place is willing to do anybody's work but his own."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Little things are little things, but to do little things faithfully is a great thing.



your real worth

"A man's real worth doesn't always appear on the surface. High grade ore is generally hid 'neath the lower levels'—says the Old Philosopher."

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